

Poster: Self-decolonization as the basis for decolonial library practice

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Abstract:

As part of a thesis on the meaning of decolonization for libraries, I assemble possibilities for action towards decolonial practice. In addition to critical evaluation of holdings, collection and acquisition practices or classifications, self-decolonization plays a central role in the process of acknowledging remnants of colonial power structures and ways of thinking. In order to create space for a more just, inclusive, and diverse society, it is necessary to admit that we have intentional or unintentional biases and blind spots. Being aware of structures and cultures and acknowledging that they exclude the marginalized and underrepresented by, for example, recognizing one's own privileges and avoiding them, training staff to think critically and proactively, and, in relation to indigenous context, seeking reconciliation with lost values while showing respect for indigenous knowledge.

The quotes (representing the voices of colleagues), proof this necessity. The basic design approach is to push the resources and sources to an unusual place so readers might stumble, to question the principles of hierarchy. The graphic elements point to blind spots and omissions.

The poster is intended to appeal in particular to those who are privileged and not personally affected, and to provide impulses for thinking about processes of change.